purpose, permanent Benches of the Gauhati High Court be established in the capitals of these States. Accordingly a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court was established at Imphal in Manipur on 21.1.92. Thereafter no proposal has been received from the Government of Manipur for setting up a separate High Court for the State.

Maternal Mortality During Pregnancy

*537.SHRI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the high incidence of maternal mortality in the country is attributed to ignorance, illiteracy and hestitation to contact health services during pregnancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government have taken or propose to take to prevent high incidence of maternal mortality in the country particularly amongst the poor and vlunerable section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) The National Family Health Survey (1992-93) estimated the maternal mortality rate at the national level at 437 per 1,00,000 live births. Ignorance, illiteracy and poor health seeking behaviour contribute to the high maternal mortality rate. The interventions for safe Motherhood under the ongoing Child Survival and Safe Motherhood programme will be further strengthened under the Reproductive and Child Health Project proposed to be launched in 1997.

Journalists Accompanying Prime Minister on Domestic Visits

*538. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) guidelines adopted by Government to select journalists to accompany Prime Minister on his domestic visits;

(b) journalists who accompanied Prime Minister during his visits to North-Eastern States during the last three years, and respective newspapers represented;

(c) journalists from said States accredited to Central Government with respective newspapers represented and dates of accreditation; and

(d) top ten dailies from said States, and respective circulation during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) The criteria for selection of journalists to accompany Prime Minister on his domestic visits is to ensure balanced and fair coverage of Prime Minister's visits. To the extent possible one representation is given to regional language newspapers.

(b) Information is given in the annexed statement-I *(See* below)

(c) Information is given in the annexed statement-II *(See* below)

(d) Information is given in the annexed statement-III *(See* below)

Statement I

YEAR	N.E. STATES VISITED BY PRIME MINISTER	JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER ON HIS DOMESTIC VISITS	NEWSPAPERS REPRESENTED
1993	UP/Tripura/Assam Meghalaya & Tripura	S/Shri 1. Harihar Swarup 2. Madhukar Upadhyaya 3. Praray Sharma 4. Deepak Dewan	PTI Univarta Telegraph Sun
1993	Meghalaya and Tripura	1. Satish Jugran 2. P. Dev Kumar 3. PB Barathukur 4. Debrata Thakur	Shasha UNI Sentinel Anand Bazar Patrika
1995	Arunachal Pradesh	1. D.D. Gupta 2. Rajeev Pandey 3. K.S.S. Murti	PTI Univarta Malayala Manorama Hindu ANI
1995	Assam	1. Devender Singh 2. Vijay Joshi 3. Arun Kesari	ANI PTI Univarta
1996	Assam Nagaland, Meghalaya	1. Devender Singh 2. Arun Kesri	ANI Univarta

Statement-II

S. No.	Name of Journalists	Name of the Newspaper Represented	Date of Accreditation
1.	Shri Dev Prakash	Assam Express, Guwahati,	28.1.1984
2.	Shri M.N. Roy Choudhry	Assam Tribune, Guwahati	27.12.195
3.	Shri Nikhil Bhattarckarya	Dainik Sambad, Agartala	8.8.1994
4.	Shri P.B. Barthakur	Dainik Japmabhumi Jorhat	9.8.1994

Statement-III

S. No.	Name of Dailies	Language	Circulation	State
		1993		
1.	Dainik Sambad	Bengali	44,022	Tripura
2.	Natun Dainik	Assemese	40,610	Assam
3.	Assam Tribune	English	36,308	-do-
4.	Dainik Assam	Assamese	33,103	-do-
5.	Ganapatrika	Assamese	31,176	-do-
6.	North-East Times	English	28,853	-do-
7.	Dainik Janambhoomi	Assamese	25,720	-do-
8.	Uttarkani	Hindi	25,589	-do-
9.	Pranta Jyoti	Assamese	25,402	-do-
10.	Assam Express	English	25,042	-do-
		1994		
1.	Dainik Sonar Cachar	Bengali	45,982	Assam
2.	Dainik Sambad	-do-	44,009	Tripura
3.	North-East Observer	English	42,352	Assam
4.	Syandan Patrika	Bengali	40,592	Tripura
5.	Assam Tribune	English	39,265	Assam
6.	Dainik Janambhoomi	Assamese	36,211	-do-
7.	Sentinel	English	36,143	-do-
8.	Dainik Assam	Assamese	32,103	-do-
9.	Uttarkaal	Hindi	31,792	-do-
10.	Pranta Jyoti	Assamese	28,674	-do-
		1995		
1.	Dainik Sambad	Bengali	52,517	Tripura
2.	Syandan Patrika	Bengali	51,767	-do-
3.	Dainik Sonar Cachar	Bengali	47,204	Assam
4.	Natun Dainik	Assamese	42,334	-do-
5.	Assam Tribune	English	40,586	-do-
6.	Sentinel	English	35,791	-do-
7.	Jugasankha	Bengali	34,662	-do-
8.	Dainik Janambhoomi	Assamese	33,685	-do-
9.	Pranta Jyoti	Assamese	28,856	-do-
10.	Assam Express	English	25,699	-do-

Entry of foreign print media into India

*539. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government favours to allow foreign print media to tie-up with Indian partners;

(b) whether Government has sought discussion on this issue with all political parties or invited suggestions through national debate on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI